

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 266894

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX(KIMBLE, WILLIAM DEAN)

SUBJECT: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO:
WILLIAM DEAN KIMBLE

REF: STATE 194199

1. NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR CONGRESSMAN STARK'S OFFICE HAS RECEIVED ANY ALLEGATIONS OR COMPLAINTS OF MISTREATMENT OR DENIAL OF RIGHTS IN KIMBLE CASE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE INFORMATION OR ACTION ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. ACCESS: FILE INDICATES THAT MEXICAN AUTHORITIES DID NOT INFORM EMBASSY OF KIMBLE'S ARREST AND THAT KIMBLE ALLEGES THAT HE WAS DENIED PERMISSION TO TELEPHONE EMBASSY. NO ACTION FEASIBLE IN KIMBLE'S CASE. EMBASSY IS TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE OVERALL ACCESS.

3. VISITATIONS: KIMBLE IS BEING SEEN ON REGULAR BASIS, AN CONOFF'SAEYFORTSOPO AMSIST KIMBLE ESTABLISH LIBRARY AN CANDLE MAKING SHOP COMMENDED.

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4. ABUSE/MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST: KIMBLE ALLEGES IN UNDATED CONSULAR PRISON VISIT REPORT THAT "----I WAS BEATEN AND HALF DROWNED----." "THE TREATMENT I RECEIVED IN THE PREVENTIVA WAS MORE LIKE A CONCENTRATION CAMP WITH CONTINUAL EXTORTION AND TORTURE FOR MONEY." THE FILE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING CONOFF'S NOTE ON VISIT TO KIMBLE DECEMBER 22, 1972. "WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS WIFE'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN TORTURED HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO IT----." UNFORTUNATELY, FILE DOES NOT INDICATE WHEN KIMBLE WAS FIRST SEEN BY CONOFF OR IF, DURING CONOFF'S VISIT OF DECEMBER 22, 1972 KIMBLE SHOWED SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE. IN CASES WHERE ABUSE/MISTREATMENT ALLEGED, EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN CORROBORATION. UNLESS EMBASSY HAS STRONG GROUNDS TO PRESUME KIMBLE'S ALLEGATIONS OF EXTORTION AND TORTURE IN PREVENTIVA CAN BE SUBSTANTIATED, NO ACTION REQUIRED.
5. INNOCENCE: DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT KIMBLE'S CLAIM TO INNOCENCE OF NARCOTIC SMUGGLING CHARGE BASED ON HIS STATEMENT THAT HE BELIEVED HE WAS SMUGGLING GEM STONES. NO ACTION FEASIBLE.
6. PERSONAL PROPERTY: CONSULAR NOTE OF MAY 16, 1975 INDICATES THAT KIMBLE INTERESTED IN RECOVERING PERSONAL PROPERTY. WAS THIS EFFECTED?
7. ABUSE/MISTREATMENT IN PRISON: DEPARTMENT CONCERNED OVER APPARENT ATTEMPT BY POSTAL EMPLOYEES AT EXTORTION THROUGH NON DELIVERY OF MAIL/PACKAGES. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REPORT ON RESULTS OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATION AND STEPS EMBASSY HAS TAKEN TO MONITOR THIS SITUATION.
8. COMMISSIONED WORK: NO INDICATION IN FILE THAT KIMBLE IS RECEIVING CREDIT TOWARDS REDUCED SENTENCE FOR WORK PERFORMED. PLEASE ADVISE IF HIS WORK IS ACCREDITED.
9. EMBASSY REQUESTED CABLE REPLY NO LATER THAN 11/24/75 ON STATUS OF ACTIONS INITIATED OR COMPLETED ON KIMBLE. INGERSOLL

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